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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/209,162 12/10/98 BAKER M BAK-004

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LM12/0301

EXAMINER

PAULA, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2776

DATE MAILED: 03/01/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/209,162

Applicant
Baker

Examiner
Cesar B. Paula

Group Art Unit
2776



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 20, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2, 3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application, and IDS filed on 5/14/1998.

This action is made non-final.

2. Claims 1-16 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-8 are independent claims.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: AUTHORIZING E-MAIL WITH MODULAR COMPONENTS.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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6. Claims 1-2, and 10-11, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Fleming, Internet Explorer 4 6-In-1 (pages 182-185, 201-205, 210-217, 265-271, 11/3/97).

Regarding independent claim 1, Fleming discloses: *a) a plurality of authoring components a firstcreating a representation of a document including other than text* --“Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery.....” (page 204, pgph 4). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to personalize email documents using stationary graphics.

Moreover, Fleming discloses: *b) encoding means for automatically encoding said representations...into an Internet-compatible email message* --“Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to create and prepare Internet-compatible email documents.

Furthermore, Fleming discloses: *c) decoding means for automatically decoding said representations* --“There are many things you can do with the message that you retrieve from your mail server.....reading messages.....” (page 213, pgph 1-3). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to read or decode email documents.

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: *.....said plurality of authoring components include at least one installable component.* --“...Once you’re done typing you message, open the Tools menu and select Spelling.....” (page 203, pgph 4). In the

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preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program which allowed a user to check the spelling with an installed spelling checking component.

Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: *said encoding means and said decoding means communicate bidirectionally.... at least one of said*

-- "There are many things you can do with the message that you retrieve from your mail server.....reading messages....." (page 213, pgph 1-3). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program which allowed a user to retrieve an email message or reply to an author or other users or readers.

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: *at least one of said authoring components includes means for recognizing whether a user is an author or a reader...*

-- "There are many things you can do with the message that you retrieve from your mail server.....reading messages....." (page 213, pgph 1-3). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program which allowed a user to retrieve an email message or reply to an author or other users or readers.

Claim 14 is directed towards an electronic mail client for implementing the mail client found in claim 2, and is similarly rejected.

Claim 20 is directed towards a method for implementing the mail client found in claim 1, and is similarly rejected.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3-4, and 8-9, 12, 15-16, and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming, Internet Explorer 4 6-In-1, in view of over Wolf et al (Pat. # 5,818,447, 10/6/1998, filed on 6/6/1996).

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: "Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery....." (page 204, pgph 4). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *.....said plurality of authoring components include at least one... of ...spreadsheet component, and a graphic component.* However, Wolf et al disclose: "...the mail note allows a separate, full-featured word processing program to display and edit the message....." (Col. 14, lines 56-62), and "...the interfaces and techniques described herein may be applied to incorporate other types of applications....spreadsheet program....." (Col. 23, lines 61-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Wolf et al, because Wolf et al teach: "...allow a spreadsheet program....to display their respective documents in the view port provided by the container mail note....." (Col. 23, lines 64-67).

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Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: "Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery....." (page 204, pgph 4). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *.....said plurality of authoring components include at least one... ofdatabase component, a presentation component.....* However, Wolf et al disclose: "...the mail note allows a separate, full-featured word processing program to display and edit the message....." (Col. 14, lines 56-62), and "...the interfaces and techniques described herein may be applied to incorporate other types of applications....spreadsheet program....." (Col. 23, lines 61-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Wolf et al, because Wolf et al teach: "...allow a spreadsheet program....to display their respective documents in the view port provided by the container mail note....." (Col. 23, lines 64-67).

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: "Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery....." (page 204, pgph 4). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *d) a plurality of mailbox/browser components.....displaying mailbox contents in a different style.* However, Wolf et al disclose: "...the mail note allows a separate, full-featured word processing program to display and edit the message....." (Col. 14, lines 56-62). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Wolf et al to display the *mailbox contents in a different style*, because Wolf et al teach: "...allow a spreadsheet program....to display their respective documents in the view port provided by the container mail note....." (Col. 23, lines 64-67).

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Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: "Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery....." (page 204, pgph 4). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *d) a plurality of mailbox/browser components.....displaying mailbox contents in a different style*. However, Wolf et al disclose: "...the mail note allows a separate, full-featured word processing program to display and edit the message....." (Col. 14, lines 56-62). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Wolf et al to display the *mailbox contents in a different style*, because Wolf et al teach: "...allow a spreadsheet program....to display their respective documents in the view port provided by the container mail note....." (Col. 23, lines 64-67).

Regarding claim 12, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: "Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery....." (page 204, pgph 4). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *at least one of said authoring components includes means for allowing a user to create a read-only document*. However, Wolf et al disclose: "...the mail note allows a separate, full-featured word processing program to display and edit the message....." (Col. 14, lines 56-62) , and "...the interfaces and techniques described herein may be applied to incorporate other types of applications....spreadsheet program....." (Col. 23, lines 61-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Wolf et al *to create a read-only document* as it was well known in the art at the time of the invention, because Wolf et al teach: "...allow a

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spreadsheet program....to display their respective documents in the view port provided by the container mail note.....” (Col. 23, lines 64-67).

Claims 15-16 are directed towards an electronic mail client for implementing the mail client found in claims 3-4 respectively, and are similarly rejected.

Regarding claim 21, which depends on claim 20, Fleming discloses:*providing a plurality of document authoring components* --“Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery.....” (page 204, pgph 4), and “...Once you’re done typing you message, open the Tools menu and select Spelling.....” (page 203, pgph 4). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to personalize email documents using an stationary graphics, and spellchecking components among other document-authoring components.

Furthermore, Fleming discloses: “Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery.....” (page 204, pgph 4). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose:*linking each of said document-authoring components with the document-encoding component*. However, Wolf et al disclose: “...the mail note allows a separate, full-featured word processing program to display and edit the message.....” (Col. 14, lines 56-62) , and “...the interfaces and techniques described herein may be applied to incorporate other types of applications....spreadsheet program.....” (Col. 23, lines 61-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Wolf et al to had linked *each of said document-authoring components with the document-encoding component*, because Wolf et al teach: “..allow a spreadsheet program....to

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display their respective documents in the view port provided by the container mail note.....”
(Col. 23, lines 64-67).

Regarding claim 22, which depends on claim 20, Fleming discloses: *d) providing a document decoding component which decodes a received document.....* --“Opening a message isn’t the only way to read it, You can read through a message.....” (page 213, pgph 1). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program which allowed a user decode or view Internet-compatible email message.

Furthermore, Fleming discloses: *c) linking the document-authoring component with the document-decoding component* --“Opening a message isn’t the only way to read it, You can read through a message.....” (page 213, pgph 1). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program which allowed a user automatically preview Internet-compatible email message.

9. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming, Internet Explorer 4 6-In-1.

Regarding independent claim 13, Fleming discloses: *a) a plurality of authoring components a firstcreating a representation of a document including other than text* --“Using Outlook Express, you can make all of your messages use a particular stationery.....” (page 204, pgph 4). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to personalize email documents using stationary graphics.

Moreover, Fleming discloses: *b) encoding means for automatically encoding said representations...* --“Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple

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process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to create and prepare Internet-compatible email documents.

Moreover, Fleming discloses: *c) decoding means for automatically decoding said representations* --“There are many things you can do with the message that you retrieve from your mail server.....reading messages.....” (page 213, pgph 1-3). In the preceding quote Fleming teaches an email authoring program to read or decode email documents.

Furthermore, Fleming discloses “There are many things you can do with the message that you retrieve from your mail server.....reading messages.....” (page 213, pgph 1-3). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose *at least one of said authoring components includes means for determining whether the user is a student or a teacher*. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had included *means for determining whether the user is a student or a teacher*, because Fleming teaches in an email authoring program which allowed a user to retrieve an email message or reply to an author—*teacher*-- or other users or *students*.

10. Claims 5-7, 17-19, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming, Internet Explorer 4 6-In-1, in view of over Hong et al (Pat. # 5,710,883, 1/20/1998, filed on 3/10/1995).

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: “Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *.....said encoding means includes MIME-compatible encoding means*.

However, Hong et al disclose: “...program then converts each new note into a formal HTML

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document.....which encodes.....MIME.....scheme is used.....” (Col. 5, lines 2-11). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Hong et al, because Hong et al teach: “.....HTML documents.....are then concatenated into a single e-mail message.....” (Col. 5, lines 5-9).

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Fleming discloses: “Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *.....said encoding means includes means for creating a MIME-compatible file.....* However, Hong et al disclose: “...program then converts each new note into a formal HTML document.....which encodes.....MIME.....scheme is used.....” (Col. 5, lines 2-11). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Hong et al, because Hong et al teach: “.....HTML documents.....are then concatenated into a single e-mail message.....” (Col. 5, lines 5-9).

Furthermore, Fleming discloses: “Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *each of said authoring component cooperating with said encoding means such that a creation of said MIME file.....is transparent to the user.* However, Hong et al disclose: “...program then converts each new note into a formal HTML document.....which encodes.....MIME.....scheme is used.....” (Col. 5, lines 2-11). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Hong et al *such that a creation of said MIME file.....is transparent to the user*, because Hong et al teach:

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“.....HTML documents.....are then concatenated into a single e-mail message.....” (Col. 5, lines 5-9).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 6, Fleming discloses: “Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *.....said decoding means includes means for concatenating a multipart MIME message.....*. However, Hong et al disclose: “.....HTML documents.....are then concatenated into a single e-mail message.....” (Col. 5, lines 5-9). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Hong et al, because Hong et al teach: “.....HTML documents.....are then concatenated into a single e-mail message.....” (Col. 5, lines 5-9).

Furthermore, Fleming discloses: “Creating a message to send through the Internet is a very simple process.....” (page 201, pgph 1). Fleming fails to explicitly disclose: *each of said authoring component cooperating with said decoding means such that a concatenation of said multipart MIME message ... is transparent to the user*. However, Hong et al disclose: “...program then converts each new note into a formal HTML document.....which encodes.....MIME.....scheme is used.....” (Col. 5, lines 2-11). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to had combined the teachings of Fleming and Hong et al *means such that a concatenation of said multipart MIME message ... is transparent to the user*, because Hong et al teach: “.....HTML documents.....are then concatenated into a single e-mail message.....” (Col. 5, lines 5-9).

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Claims 17-19 are directed towards an electronic mail client for implementing the mail client found in claims 3-7 respectively, and are similarly rejected.

Claims 23-24 are directed towards a method for implementing the mail client found in claims 6-7 respectively, and are similarly rejected.

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Venkatraman et al. (Pat. # 6,014,688), Herrman (Pat. # 5,995,756), Kremen et al. (Pat. # 5,706,434), Poreh et al. (Pat. # 5,889,518), Sharma et al. (Pat. # 5,471,470), Sharma et al. (Pat. # 5,452,289), Jervis et al. (Pat. # 5,835,769), and Netscape Communicator 6-in-1, Guildford.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

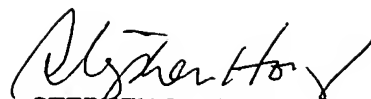
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on (703) 305-4713. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day. The formal and informal fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 308-9051 and 308-5403 respectively.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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cbp

02/28/00


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER